

Visiting Artists Recital

Jassen Todorov, violin

William Corbett-Jones, piano

**Thursday, April 24, 2008
at 8:00 pm**



**Arts Building
University of Alberta**

Program



**DEPARTMENT OF
MUSIC**

Program

Sonata in B-Flat Major, K. 454

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Largo. Allegro

Andante

Allegretto

Three Paganini Caprices Nos. 20, 21, 24

Karol Szymanowski

Intermission

Sonata No. 5 for Solo Violin

Eugène Ysaÿe

L'Aurore: Lento assai

Danse rustique: Allegro giocoso molto modarato

Sonata for Violin and Piano in G Major

Maurice Ravel

Allegretto Blues

Moderato Perpetuum Mobile

Allegro

Jassen Todorov has distinguished himself as one of the most prominent violinists of his generation. Dubbed “*an outstanding violinist...a player to watch*” by the British music journal *The Strad*, Mr Todorov has appeared with major orchestras in the United States, Europe and China, and has given numerous recitals, including New York’s Weill Recital Hall, Amsterdam’s Concertgebouw (together with violinist Oleh Krysa) and London’s St. James. He is also an active performer in his native Bulgaria, where he is considered one of the country’s most prized young musicians.

With a repertoire including works from all styles and epochs, the 33-year-old violinist became the youngest musician (at 26) to record all six violin sonatas of Eugene Ysaye. Reviewing the 2001 CD, *The Strad* said Mr Todorov “*is able to deliver Ysaye's demands in the many mercurial passages with commendable accuracy*” and the *American Record Guide* described it as “*high praise...an important release for admirers of Ysaye's music.*” He has also recorded the three Brahms violin sonatas with critical acclaim. Both discs are on Gega New label.

Mr Todorov began his musical education in Bulgaria at the Schools of Music in Plovdiv and Sofia and furthered his studies in the United States at the Idyllwild Arts Academy in California. A top prize winner of several national and international competitions, he earned his bachelor’s degree in violin performance from Harid Conservatory, Florida, and his master’s degree from the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. From 2000 to 2003, he served as the teaching assistant to Professor Oleh Krysa at the Eastman School and held a violin position at the University of Rochester. In 2002, he received the prestigious Eastman award for excellence in teaching. Currently, Mr Todorov is Professor of Violin and Head of Strings at San Francisco State University. Visit Mr Todorov on the web at www.jassentodorov.com.

A distinguished artist/professor at San Francisco State University, **William Corbett-Jones** has performed throughout the United States, Canada, Mexico, Europe, Africa, Australia and Asia as soloist with orchestra, recitalist, and in collaboration with internationally renown colleagues. His concertizing in Europe has included recitals in most of the major capitals with orchestras such as the Lausanne and Winterthur. He is widely known as a master class teacher. Mr Corbett-Jones has performed for the BBC, Hilversum, Basel, Cologne, Paris, Brussels and Istanbul radios, and has appeared many times in festivals such as the Salzburg Chamber Music Festival and the Meiringen Festival in Switzerland. He has been soloist with the Orchestra of Maggio Musicale of Florence under the direction of Kurt Masur, former Conductor of the New York Philharmonic.

For eight years Mr Corbett-Jones was the pianist of the famed Alma Trio, which toured extensively. In 1984 he was invited to be guest professor for a semester at the Taiwan National Academy of Arts in Taipei. He made concert tours of Taiwan and the Philippines and gave a recital at the Shanghai Conservatory. He has also served on the juries of several international competitions. In addition, Mr. Corbett-Jones has made several recordings and educational films and served as artist-in-residence at the University of Southern California. He is the recipient of a Fulbright Grant and the Alfred Hertz Scholarship from the University of California, Berkley. In 1991, he was director of the American Liszt Society Festival held in San Francisco. During his sabbatical year in 1992, he was invited to be artist-in-residence at the LaSalle College of the Arts in Singapore. During that year he also performed a recital and master class on Mozart at the National Music Teachers Convention in Miami. In 1993, he was guest professor for a semester at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music in Australia.

Mr Corbett-Jones has presented several cycles of the complete works of Mozart and Chopin, as well as all the sonatas of Beethoven and Schubert. His vast repertoire includes almost all the standard solo and chamber music literature. He can also be heard on Cambria CD-1119 in a program of music by Roger Nixon, Maurice Ravel, Bela Bartok, Ferruccio Busoni and Franz Schubert. In 1999 he taught and performed at the High School of Music in Damascus, Syria. In the Summer of 2001 he was invited to teach and perform at the Xinjiang Normal University, where he was named Honorary Professor and the Xinjiang Arts Institute, both in Urumqi, capital of the Xinjiang Autonomous Region of China.